Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

1.941
S8L752
Reserve

CORE LIST

MAY 1976

U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
NAT'L AGRIC. LIBRARY
FEB 14 '79

SUPPLEMENT TO LMS-208

LIVESTOCK AND MEAT Situation

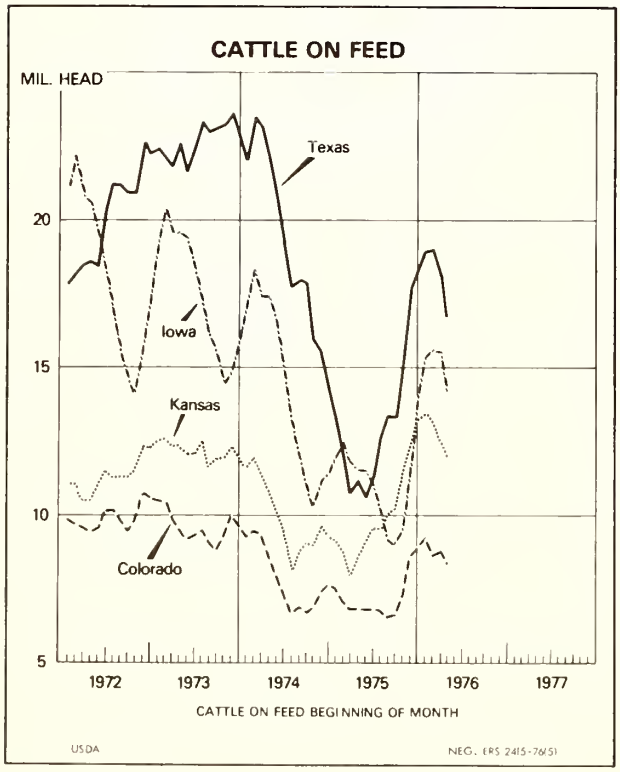
Economic Research Service

U.S. Department of Agriculture

After jumping over $10 per 100 pounds between mid-March and mid-April, fed cattle prices leveled in the $43-$45 range in early May. However, renewed strength in fed cattle prices seems likely over the next 3-4 months barring forced marketings due to drought.

Placements Dip

The April 1 cattle on feed inventory in 23 States totaled 10.9 million head, somewhat short of earlier expectations. Although inventories were 28 percent more than a year earlier, first quarter placements were lower and fed marketings higher than previous estimates. The April 1 inventory on feed was 12 percent below 1974 levels. Judging from the distribution of cattle on feed by weight groups, modest seasonal declines in fed beef supplies are in prospect through the summer.



Placements of cattle on feed during January-March were up 14 percent from depressed year-earlier levels, with all the increase in January and February. March placements fell 9 percent below a year earlier as losses to cattle feeders mounted. The dip in March placements was the first year-to-year decline since July 1975. Apparently the low fed cattle prices had a greater affect on smaller-scale feeders as placements in Iowa during March fell over 30 percent from February and year-earlier levels.

Cattle feeders have indicated plans to market 6 million fed cattle during April-June, about 18 percent more than a year ago but 6 percent fewer than the first quarter and below 1974 spring levels. There were 35 percent more steers and heifers on feed in the heavier weight groups, suggesting feeders could meet or slightly exceed these intentions.

Total cattle slaughter began to slip lower in April and during the last 2 weeks of the month dropped below year-earlier levels. Reduced fed marketings, along with generally favorable spring grazing conditions which lessened pressure to sell cows, have contributed to the decline. Cow slaughter in early April dropped to about 150,000 head per week, only half the level of last November and December and about the same as a year earlier. Most cattle feeders kept rather current on marketings through April following the bulge in fed beef supplies in March. Also, relatively more heifers in the fed beef supply may be helping to lower average slaughter weights somewhat.

Although fed cattle prices rose nearly 30 percent between mid-March and the end of April, wholesale and retail price advances have been more modest. Retailers are apparently reluctant to raise consumer prices on the heels of recent beef promotion campaigns. However, considering the expected seasonal declines in beef production, higher retail prices are in prospect through much of the sum-

mer. Retail Choice beef prices rose from $1.33 per pound in early April to $1.43 in early May reflecting increases in farm and wholesale prices.

Grain Stocks

Livestock feed grain use has risen substanially in the past few months, but feed grain supplies remain adequate to support a high level of livestock feeding. Although domestic feed use of corn during January-March was up about a fifth from depressed year-earlier levels, April 1 corn stocks totaled 2.8 million bushels--27 percent more than a year earlier and only slightly below 1974 stocks. April 1 stocks of the four feed grains (corn, oats, sorghum, and barley) totaled 86.4 million metric tons, a fourth over April 1, 1975 but 8 percent below 1974.

Weather conditions will play a key role in feed grain markets over the next few months. Corn prices have been relatively stable at around $2.70 per bushel, Chicago basis, since January. The expected high level of feed grain use likely will keep prices up until there are further developments in this year's crops. On April 1, farmers indicated plans to plant 83 million acres of corn this spring, 6 percent more than last year and the most since the late 1940's. Spring planting in the Corn Belt is well ahead of normal this year and moisture conditions appear to be adequate. Under favorable weather conditions USDA projects a corn crop of 6.0 to 6.7 billion bushels, 5 to 17 percent more than the 1975 crop. A crop of this size would place downward pressure on feed grain prices by midsummer and fall. Improved livestock/feed grain price relationships could then lead to further increases in placements of cattle on feed, especially during the fall quarter, and a sizable increase in the spring 1977 pig crop.

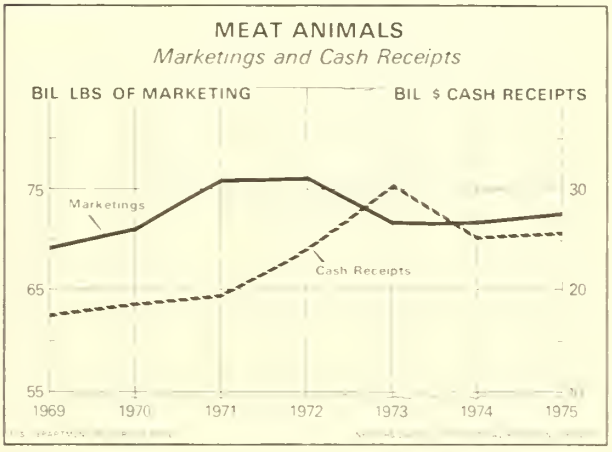
1975 Livestock Cash Receipts Up

Farm production of meat animals (total liveweight) in 1975 totaled 58.3 billion pounds, down 8 percent from 1974's record and the lowest since 1967. Production of cattle, hogs, and sheep all declined from 1974.

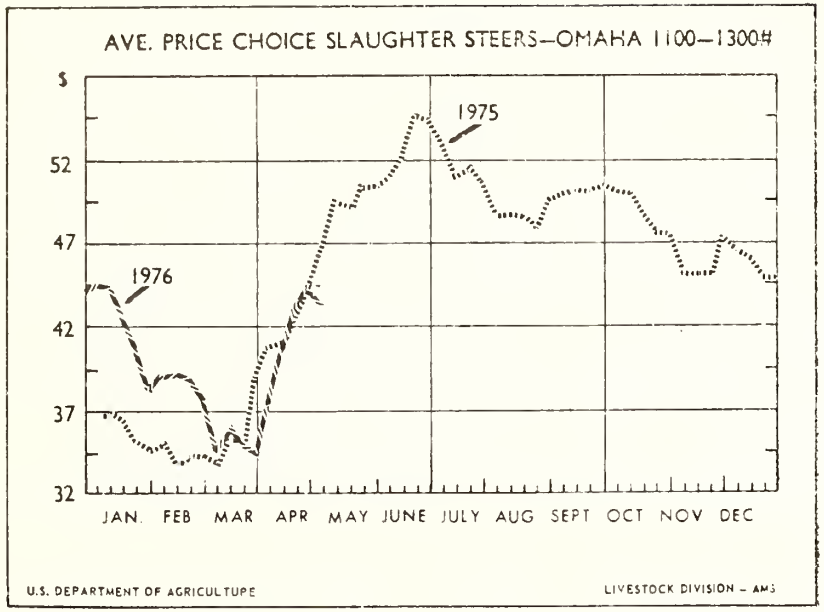
Meat Animals: Production and Income

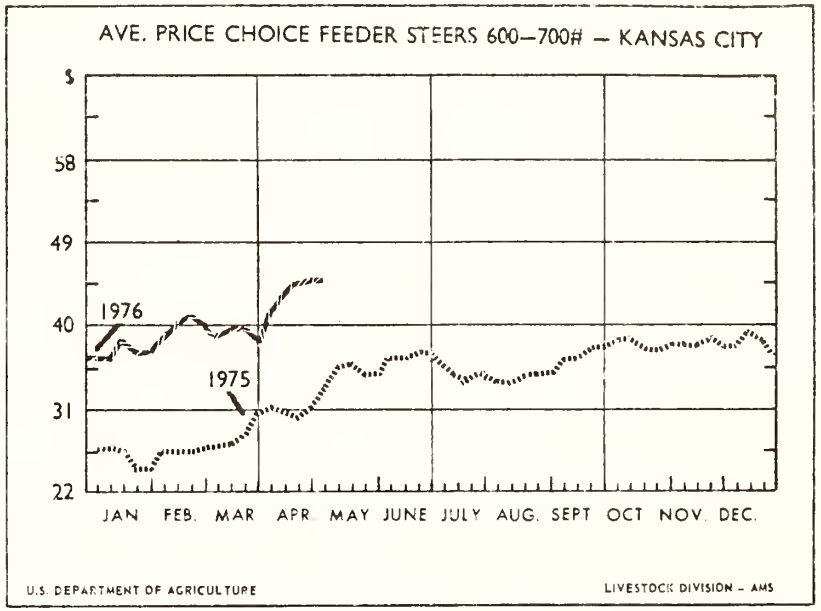
	1973	1974	1975	1975/74
				%
Cattle and Calves				
Production(mil.lb.)[1]	41,100	42,650	40,680	-5
Marketings(mil.lb.)[2]	51,201	50,126	54,728	+9
Cash receipts(mil.dol.)[3]	22,410	17,819	17,482	-2
Gross income(mil.dol.)	22,815	18,321	17,941	-2
Hogs and Pigs				
Production(mil.lb.)[1]	19,987	20,101	16,824	-16
Marketings(mil.lb.)[2]	19,435	20,393	17,074	-16
Cash receipts(mil.dol.)[3]	7,483	6,979	7,879	+13
Gross income(mil.dol.)	7,663	7,199	8,135	+13
Sheep and lambs				
Production(mil.lb.)[1]	891	805	772	-4
Marketings(mil.lb.)[2]	1,277	1,185	1,059	-11
Cash receipts(mil.dol.)[3]	389	370	380	+3
Gross income(mil.dol.)	396	378	389	+3

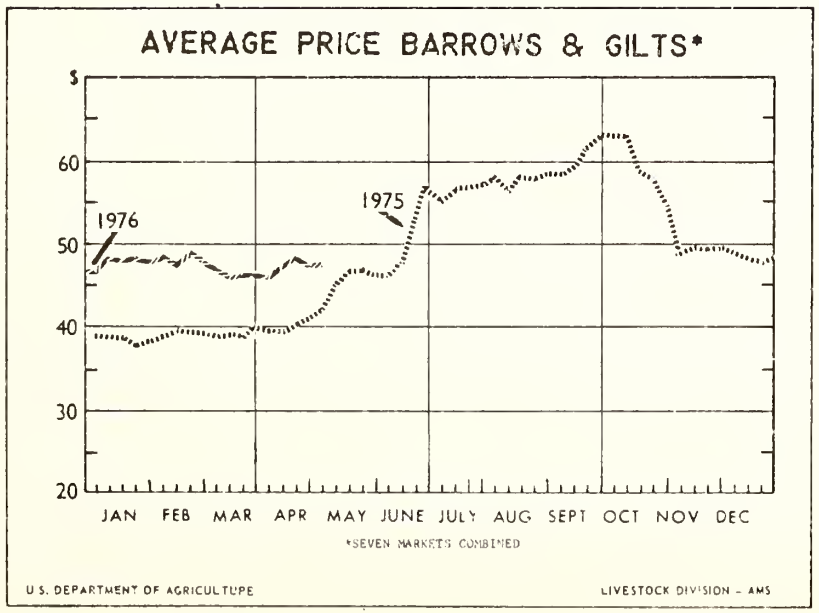
1/ Adjustment made for changes in inventory and for inshipments. 2/ Excludes custom slaughter for use on farms where produced and interfarm sales within the State. 3/ Receipts from marketings and sale of farm slaughter.

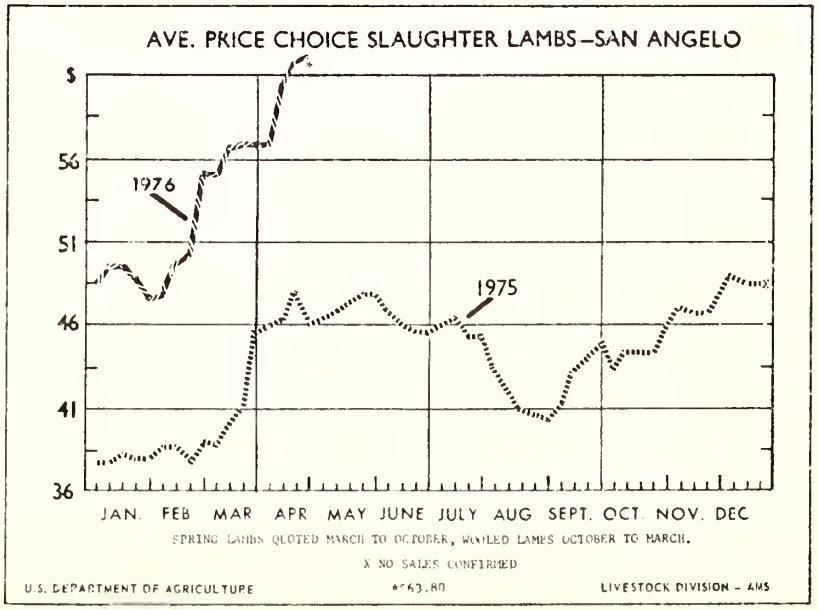


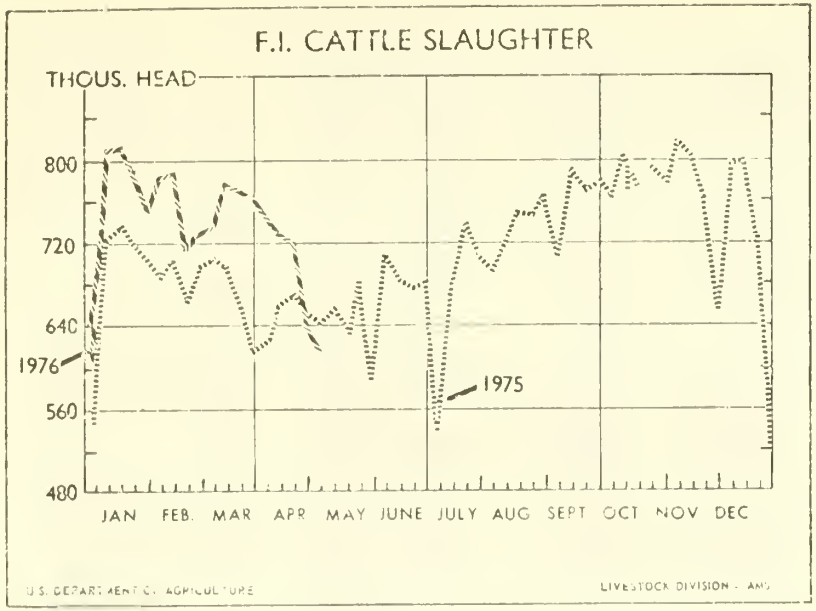
Cash receipts from meat animal marketings rose slightly in 1975. Lower receipts from cattle and calf marketings were fully offset by increased receipts from marketings of hogs and sheep. Cash receipts from marketings totaled $25.7 billion in 1975, the second highest on record and up 2 percent from 1974. Receipts from cattle and calves accounted for 68 percent of total livestock receipts last year, while hogs contributed nearly 31 percent and sheep just over 1 percent.

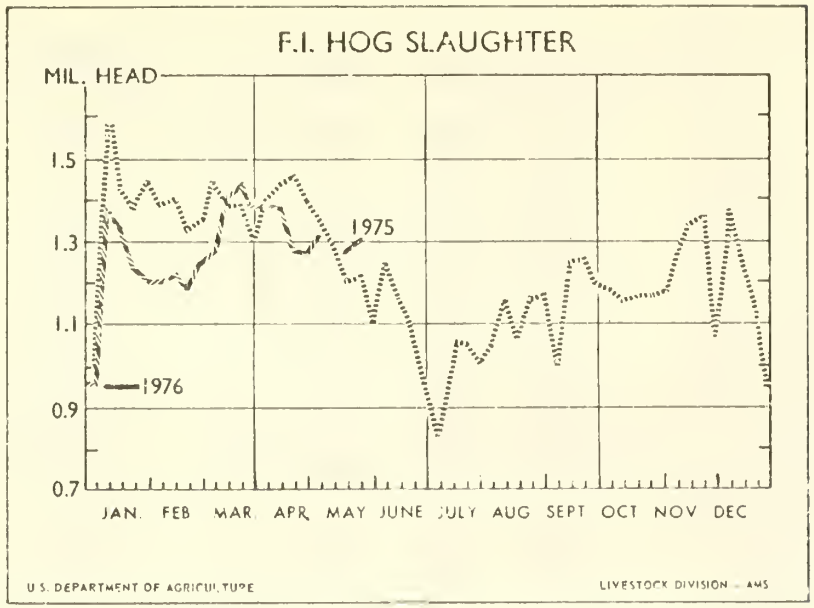

AVE. PRICE CHOICE SLAUGHTER STEERS—OMAHA 1100—1300#
$
52
47
42
37
32
1975
1976
JAN. FEB MAR APR MAY JUNE JULY AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
LIVESTOCK DIVISION – AMS

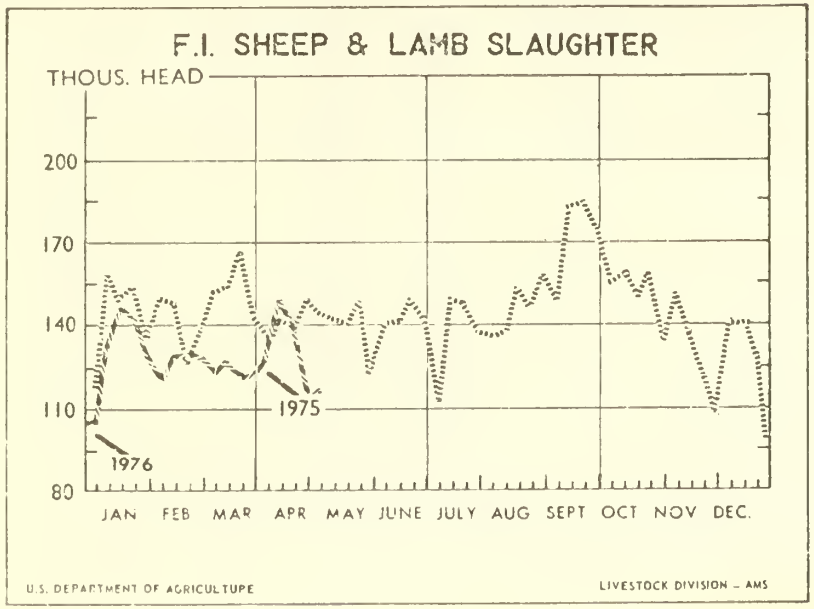

AVE. PRICE CHOICE FEEDER STEERS 600—700# — KANSAS CITY
$
58
49
40
31
22
1976
1975
JAN FEB. MAR APR. MAY JUNE JULY AUG. SEPT OCT NOV. DEC.
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
LIVESTOCK DIVISION – AMS

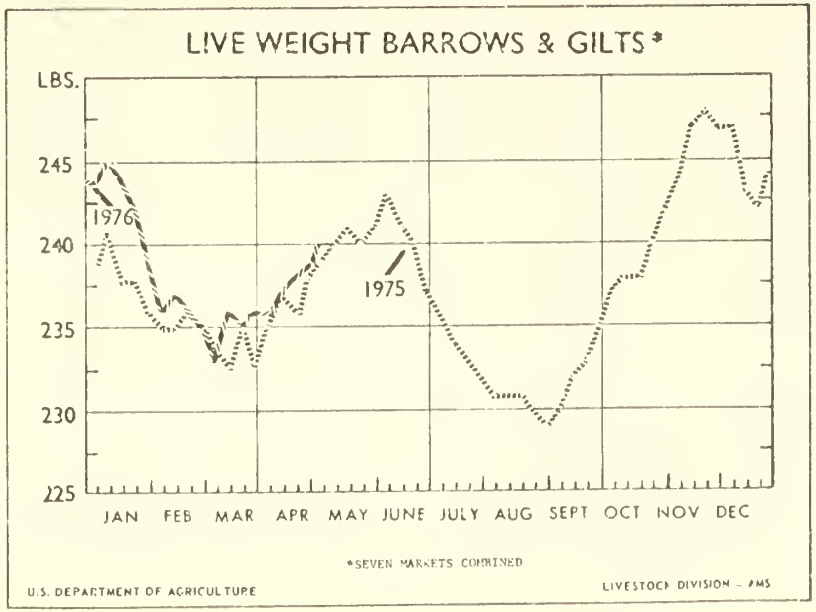

AVERAGE PRICE BARROWS & GILTS*
$
60
50
40
30
20
1976
1975
JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUNE JULY AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC
*SEVEN MARKETS COMBINED
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
LIVESTOCK DIVISION – AMS


AVE. PRICE CHOICE SLAUGHTER LAMBS—SAN ANGELO
$
56
51
46
41
36
1976
1975
JAN. FEB MAR APR MAY JUNE JULY AUG SEPT. OCT. NOV. DEC
SPRING LAMBS QUOTED MARCH TO OCTOBER, WOOLED LAMBS OCTOBER TO MARCH.
X NO SALES CONFIRMED
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
LIVESTOCK DIVISION – AMS


F.I. CATTLE SLAUGHTER
THOUS. HEAD
800
720
640
560
480
1976
1975
JAN FEB. MAR APR MAY JUNE JULY AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
LIVESTOCK DIVISION - AMS


F.I. HOG SLAUGHTER
MIL. HEAD
1.5
1.3
1.1
0.9
0.7
1975
1976
JAN. FEB MAR APR MAY JUNE JULY AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
LIVESTOCK DIVISION - AMS


F.I. SHEEP & LAMB SLAUGHTER
THOUS. HEAD
200
170
140
110
80
1975
1976
JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUNE JULY AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC.
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
LIVESTOCK DIVISION - AMS


LIVE WEIGHT BARROWS & GILTS*
LBS.
245
240
235
230
225
1976
1975
JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUNE JULY AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC
*SEVEN MARKETS COMBINED
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
LIVESTOCK DIVISION - AMS

Selected price statistics for meat animals and meat

Item	1975						1976			
	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March	April
	Dollars per 100 pounds									
MARKET PRICES:										
SLAUGHTER CATTLE:										
Steers:										
Omaha:										
Choice, 900-1100 lb.	50.21	46.80	48.91	47.90	45.23	45.01	41.18	38.80	36.14	43.12
Good, 900-1100 lb.	43.34	39.52	41.09	41.39	41.19	40.65	37.75	36.14	33.77	39.78
California, Choice 900-1100 lb.	50.50	45.75	—	45.58	45.56	47.25	41.06	39.62	37.75	45.69
Colorado, Choice 900-1100 lb.	50.98	46.48	48.99	47.79	45.58	45.81	41.22	38.87	35.35	44.76
Cows:										
Omaha:										
Commercial	22.13	21.99	23.45	23.45	21.91	23.01	24.42	27.11	28.31	30.86
Utility	22.00	21.29	22.45	22.01	20.73	21.64	23.26	25.90	27.45	30.72
Cutter	19.42	18.84	19.64	18.70	18.30	19.47	20.89	23.62	25.09	27.58
Canner	16.90	16.72	17.02	15.66	15.34	16.95	18.45	20.25	21.80	24.31
Vealers, Choice, S. St. Paul	39.01	37.10	36.57	42.52	43.95	43.52	51.90	50.05	50.58	49.49
FEEDER STEERS:										
Kansas City:										
Choice, 400-500 lb.	32.58	31.70	35.15	36.04	36.26	35.94	37.47	41.40	44.01	47.01
Choice, 600-700 lb.	34.70	34.34	37.59	38.09	38.26	37.83	37.46	40.42	39.69	44.62
Good, 600-700 lb.	28.60	29.15	33.48	33.10	32.14	31.50	31.45	35.92	36.28	40.81
All weights and grades	32.53	32.93	35.98	36.74	36.77	37.79	36.66	36.95	38.82	43.85
Amarillo:										
Choice, 600-700 lb.	34.40	34.18	37.11	36.15	37.75	39.40	37.67	40.40	39.24	44.29
Good, 600-700 lb.	29.38	23.12	28.62	30.08	30.88	31.19	28.38	33.27	31.16	—
Georgia Auctions:										
Choice, 600-700 lb.	30.40	28.06	30.56	30.65	32.00	34.17	33.00	35.75	36.15	39.75
Good, 400-500 lb.	23.00	22.50	24.38	24.25	25.94	27.67	27.75	31.19	32.90	36.75
SLAUGHTER HOGS:										
Barrows and Gilts:										
Omaha:										
Nos. 1 & 2, 200-220 lb.	57.81	58.73	61.26	59.72	51.68	50.28	50.34	49.70	47.23	48.87
Nos. 1 & 2, 220-240 lb.	58.00	58.89	61.30	59.77	51.63	50.20	50.24	49.68	47.23	48.86
All weights	56.66	57.88	61.11	58.20	49.50	47.46	47.81	48.43	46.40	47.48
Sioux City	57.25	58.12	61.19	58.76	49.78	48.36	48.06	48.92	46.50	48.06
7 markets[1]	57.17	58.10	61.23	58.52	49.74	48.33	48.40	48.85	46.71	47.89
Sows:										
7 markets[1]	49.74	51.89	54.56	51.94	42.25	38.50	40.48	44.03	42.24	42.88
FEEDER PIGS:										
U.S. No. 1 & 2, So. Mo., 40-50 lb. (per hd.)	44.10	46.75	59.81	56.55	48.92	44.19	48.38	50.16	48.80	51.28
SHEEP AND LAMBS:										
Slaughter:										
Lambs, Choice, San Angelo	45.25	40.75	43.50	44.50	46.83	48.75	49.25	49.00	56.25	62.95
Lambs, Choice, So. St. Paul	44.09	39.91	42.14	43.14	43.58	46.19	46.94	46.56	50.92	55.77
Ewes, Good, San Angelo	17.00	13.44	12.94	12.35	14.83	17.44	17.75	16.12	18.90	18.44
Ewes, Good, So. St. Paul	9.94	8.15	8.75	8.93	8.00	9.46	12.20	12.50	12.81	13.42
Feeder Lambs:										
Choice, San Angelo	40.25	38.75	41.25	42.62	46.33	48.38	48.38	49.69	56.30	62.71
Choice, So. St. Paul	37.10	35.52	36.63	41.70	43.58	46.11	47.18	46.00	50.21	52.39
FARM PRICES:										
Beef cattle:	36.20	33.10	34.80	34.40	33.20	34.50	33.50	34.20	33.60	37.90
Steers and heifers	40.70	37.10	38.70	38.30	37.50	39.10	37.20	36.80	35.30	40.50
Cows	20.60	19.70	20.50	19.80	20.00	20.10	22.10	25.10	27.00	28.90
Calves	28.10	25.70	27.40	27.40	29.20	30.70	31.40	34.40	35.30	38.00
Hogs	54.10	56.00	58.50	58.00	49.00	47.50	47.50	47.90	45.50	47.00
Sheep	11.90	11.00	11.50	11.10	10.90	11.90	12.20	12.50	13.40	15.00
Lambs	43.50	39.80	40.40	42.30	43.90	46.20	47.70	46.80	49.70	54.60
MEAT PRICES:										
Wholesale:										
Midwest Markets:[2]										
Steer beef, Choice, 600-700 lb.	82.82	77.95	79.66	75.62	72.98	73.25	66.68	62.22	56.97	65.85
Heifer beef, Choice, 500-600 lb.	81.63	76.20	77.40	73.66	71.79	70.69	64.68	60.29	56.01	64.44
Cow beef, Canner and Cutter	45.48	43.67	45.40	44.10	43.40	44.61	49.12	53.25	56.44	60.48
Pork loins, 8-14 lb.	105.79	105.51	110.67	109.22	99.12	90.46	97.80	95.36	85.25	87.60
Pork bellies, 12-14 lb.	92.35	105.46	103.48	91.44	78.32	69.13	75.06	67.37	67.42	73.62
Hams, skinned, 14-17 lb.	84.75	91.08	99.08	105.70	101.04	101.81	83.43	80.68	85.48	84.04
East Coast:										
Steer beef, Choice 600-700 lb.	84.92	80.09	82.40	79.09	76.13	76.96	69.98	65.14	60.04	69.28
Lamb, Choice and Prime, 35-45 lb.	99.29	91.67	92.36	95.40	99.38	102.34	102.81	102.13	109.40	118.88
Lamb, Choice and Prime, 55-65 lb.	99.29	91.67	92.36	95.20	98.19	99.48	98.00	98.33	105.43	118.50
West Coast:										
Steer Beef, Choice, 600-700 lb.	86.89	81.26	82.80	79.63	75.45	77.61	71.84	66.22	61.33	72.08
PRICE INDEXES (BLS, 1967=100)										
Wholesale meat	208.0	203.4	209.3	209.1	198.3	196.0	190.4	180.3	171.7	
Retail meat	188.5	190.4	190.5	194.3	192.4	189.8	186.8	182.8	179.6	
Beef and veal	186.4	182.5	176.7	178.3	175.3	174.7	174.9	168.3	164.7	
Pork	204.9	214.3	222.4	230.9	227.5	219.6	210.1	205.4	204.3	
Other meats	170.1	174.5	176.0	178.3	180.7	181.2	180.3	178.8	177.7	
LIVESTOCK-FEED RATIOS, OMAHA[3]										
Beef steer-corn	17.2	15.0	16.6	17.4	17.7	17.6	16.0	14.9	13.8	16.6
Hog-corn	19.4	18.6	20.7	21.2	19.4	18.5	18.6	18.6	17.8	18.3

[1] St. Louis N.S.Y., Kansas City, Omaha, Sioux City, S. St. Joseph, S. St. Paul, and Indianapolis. [2] Prior to Oct., 1975, Chicago Market. [3] Bushels of No. 2 Yellow Corn equivalent in value of 100 pounds liveweight.

Selected marketings, slaughter and stock statistics for meat animals and meat

Item	Unit	1975							1976		
		June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
FEDERALLY INSPECTED:											
Slaughter:											
Cattle	1,000 head	2,897	3,084	3,141	3,319	3,584	3,116	3,267	3,403	3,032	3,492
Steers	1,000 head	1,304	1,332	1,308	1,286	1,288	1,133	1,229	1,350	1,306	1,612
Heifers	1,000 head	714	741	817	948	993	815	833	969	899	1,074
Cows	1,000 head	787	912	923	991	1,198	1,081	1,123	1,009	760	731
Bulls and stags	1,000 head	92	99	93	94	105	87	82	75	67	75
Calves	1,000 head	276	344	345	385	443	358	381	369	327	415
Sheep and lambs	1,000 head	613	635	621	758	701	515	584	582	513	570
Hogs	1,000 head	5,077	4,659	4,627	5,217	5,379	5,084	5,508	5,400	4,873	6,325
Percentage sows	Percent	6	7	7	6	5	5	6	5	4	4
Average live weight per head											
Cattle	Pounds	999	983	981	987	997	1,000	1,008	1,020	1,026	1,034
Calves	Pounds	231	237	225	224	233	232	227	232	215	204
Sheep and lambs	Pounds	101	101	102	104	108	108	109	110	111	112
Hogs	Pounds	244	241	237	238	240	246	246	243	236	236
Average dressed weight											
Beef	Pounds	587	571	574	571	579	578	576	597	598	616
Veal	Pounds	132	133	126	126	130	130	127	130	123	116
Lamb and mutton	Pounds	49	49	50	51	52	53	54	56	56	56
Pork	Pounds	167	166	164	165	167	170	172	168	167	166
Lard	Pounds	14	14	14	14	14	16	15	16	13	14
Production:											
Beef	Mil. lb.	1,697	1,756	1,798	1,890	2,069	1,796	1,874	2,024	1,808	2,145
Veal	Mil. lb.	36	45	43	48	57	46	48	48	40	48
Lamb and mutton	Mil. lb.	30	31	31	38	36	27	31	32	28	32
Pork	Mil. lb.	842	773	755	861	896	864	943	906	903	1,174
Lard	Mil. lb.	71	64	64	72	75	81	81	84	64	87
COMMERCIAL:											
Slaughter:[1]											
Cattle	1,000 head	3,193	3,400	3,468	3,672	3,988	3,471	3,633	3,762	3,336	3,813
Calves	1,000 head	382	468	466	515	591	476	492	466	408	496
Sheep and lambs	1,000 head	636	658	648	785	732	536	606	601	528	587
Hogs	1,000 head	5,386	4,955	4,883	5,468	5,638	5,339	5,841	5,698	5,122	6,612
Production:											
Beef	Mil. lb.	1,849	1,915	1.961	2,066	2,270	1,971	2,056	2,207	1,966	2,317
Veal	Mil. lb.	63	77	73	82	95	77	76	73	62	71
Lamb and mutton	Mil. lb.	31	32	32	40	38	28	32	33	29	33
Pork	Mil. lb.	889	817	794	901	936	904	996	953	850	1,092
Lard	Mil. lb.	74	68	67	75	78	83	84	87	67	90
COLD STORAGE STOCKS FIRST OF MONTH:											
Beef	Mil. lb.	309	288	269	258	254	272	320	350	350	362
Veal	Mil. lb.	11	9	8	9	8	9	10	11	11	10
Lamb and mutton	Mil. lb.	9	7	9	10	11	11	12	11	11	11
Pork	Mil. lb.	324	284	230	186	190	222	269	249	236	222
Total meat and meat products[2]	Mil. lb.	726	654	578	518	518	571	668	675	672	677
FOREIGN TRADE:											
Imports: (carcass weight)											
Beef and veal	Mil. lb.	146	154	167	171	137	182	109	169	107	189
Pork	Mil. lb.	31	38	26	33	39	37	36	48	29	38
Lamb and mutton	Mil. lb.	2	3	4	3	2	2	2	2	3	2
Exports: (carcass weight)											
Beef and veal	Mil. lb.	2.92	2.97	3.84	3.05	5.29	7.74	7.62	7.22	7.42	8.09
Pork	Mil. lb.	19.18	23.73	22.18	18.98	17.14	19.36	22.25	17.06	26.43	38.29
Lamb and mutton	Mil. lb.	.29	.37	.26	.28	.37	.27	.30	.24	.29	.38
Live animal imports:											
Cattle	Number	33,064	18,801	5,110	25,861	41,724	82,096	133,704	90,507	52,135	69,417
Hogs	Number	385	48	2,574	4,506	4,629	3,186	2,566	2,221	1,911	3,776
Sheep and lambs	Number	97	22	795	737	866	790	74	932	153	91
Live animal exports:											
Cattle	Number	15,223	18,348	9,873	13,898	16,826	19,585	15,822	12,263	13,356	33,859
Hogs	Number	785	2,647	758	799	1,015	1,731	1,106	306	517	1,477
Sheep and lambs	Number	40,680	36,656	30,719	17,518	14,373	9,859	29,680	13,346	6,805	19,409

[1] Federally inspected and other commercial. [2] Includes stocks of canned meats in cooler in addition to the meats listed.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, $300

NOTICE: If you don't want future issues of this ERS publication, check here ☐ and mail this sheet to the address below.

If your address should be changed, write your new address on this sheet and mail it to:

Automated Mailing List Section
Office of Plant and Operations
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D.C. 20250

LMS Supplement, May 1976

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE
AGR 101
FIRST CLASS

U.S.MAIL